



# PREF PROPELLER

**Volume 1, Issue 27**

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## **SUPT.'S CORNER**

**By: Michael Lloyd, Superintendent**

Many of you may have seen that PREF was highlighted on Channel 8 news on Tuesday evening of this week. In the 5:30 p.m. news block, Channel 8 ran a story because they had received information that there were six men with Staph infections at PREF. I would like to clarify this, and provide you with accurate information with regard to this subject.

First off, there are zero confirmed cases of Staph infections at PREF. Skin infections, as well as other infections, viral or bacterial are common occurrences whether in a correctional facility or in the community. It is unnecessary to jump to conclusions and assume the worst i.e. Staph infection.

Second, it is difficult to say why the media chose to focus on this issue. They reported the facts as we gave them and were accurate in their report. Channel 8 stated that four (4) cases of skin infections had been reported, and that none of them were confirmed as Staph infections. This is accurate. They reported that these individuals are being treated and are responding well to the antibiotics they are given. This is also true. I'm not sure why this story became newsworthy, but it did. That should not give anyone any cause to worry or be concerned.

In the near future, CMS staff will hold short training sessions for staff and residents in an effort to educate staff about Staph infections, symptoms and signs. Hopefully

this will alleviate the problem of men jumping to the conclusion that every infection is Staph. Also, because of the widespread concern shown by some, I am stepping up sanitation of the facility by organizing a new cleaning crew. This crew will supplement all of the dorm detail assignments and sanitation assignments throughout the facility. Hopefully this will put everyone's mind at ease.

To conclude, it seems that due to a short blurb in the news, everyone has been put on high alert. Due to this, rumors have begun flying around the facility. In the next two weeks, if any resident sincerely believes that he has a Staph infection, he will be permitted to visit the Health Care Unit without being assessed co-pay. This should not be used as a free pass to visit HCU. It is for men with a clear need for medical attention regarding having a skin infection, but the co-pay will be waived. Anyone without a skin infection will still be assessed co-pay. Residents should still submit a request to be seen by medical staff as usual.

## **OPINION COLUMN**

**Topic:** The recent raise in property taxes.

Concerning the recent raise in property taxes, I am personally a strong believer in small government. Small government means smaller taxes, less government intrusion, and more personal freedom. It also means more personal responsibility. There was a

time when charities and local communities informally took care of one another. Now it seems that everyone holds out a hand to the government, expecting it to solve every problem. It can't. Historically, government tends to be very inefficient, and if bad people gain control, they can make the average citizen's life worse. Just try a visit with the IRS and see if you leave feeling all warm and fuzzy inside.

Property tax is a regressive form of taxation. It punishes a person for owning property. While Donald Trump may be able to afford paying on his vast land holdings, most young couples and older retirees often struggle to pay that yearly bill. Imagine having worked all your life to own a piece of the American dream, only to have the government (federal, state or local) take your house away from you because you can't afford to pay the ever-increasing taxes on it.

A better form of taxation is the Fair Tax program. This is a program that was researched for many years by economists and other specialists, seeking the best form of taxation for Americans. They compared flat taxes, VATs, and other tax programs, and found that an imbedded sales tax is the best form of taxation. Did you know that Americans spend \$400 billion (with a B) every year just in doing taxes? Imagine if we no longer had to figure out every little loophole, legal or not, to pay taxes. On the federal level, if a consumption sales tax of 23% were imbedded into the system, it would actually keep our products at about the same price, since hidden taxes would no longer keep prices artificially high. Illegal aliens would help pay for our under-funded Social Security and Medicare programs. Since there would be no corporate taxes (all taxes end up being paid by individuals anyway), there would be a massive return of companies from overseas, increasing the number of jobs here in America and

decreasing the number going overseas. People would not have to worry about losing their home or family farm to the IRS. In fact, there would be no more IRS.

In the Fair Tax system, every individual would get a monthly pre-bate for taxes spent on basic needs. In essence, each man, woman and child would get a monthly check for paying the taxes on food, basic clothing, and other items. Taxation then is focused on nonessential items, and the poor are still taken care of. In fact, the poor will be better off, because they will not directly pay Social Security or Medicare taxes, and they will purchase items with their entire paycheck, not just with the after tax check they currently receive. The rich will pay their fair portion, and there will be no loopholes – everyone equal under this law.

Imagine if the state of Indiana were to go to the Fair Tax! With no corporation taxes, we would see many companies seek to move here because it would be cheaper for them to run their business. More jobs mean more opportunities for Hoosiers to work. And in working, Hoosiers would then spend more, increasing the tax by purchasing items. There would be no worries about filing an improper tax form, audits, or losing one's home because of unpaid taxes. April 15<sup>th</sup> would just be another day of the year.

- Gerald Smith, Classification Specialist III

The newfound pain of Indiana's tax increase is a chance to turn the debate away from taxes to where it truly should lie.

What is the role of government in our lives, and is the cost of it a positive contributor to a healthy society or a negative factor leading to decline? What do government services actually provide, and should government be providing them in the first place?

We should not consider whether these services aid individuals. We should only ask

ourselves if they foster a healthy society. Is it proper for government to redirect individual wealth from its source (us) to aid an individual, fight a war, educate or serve other needs of society?

I believe our government has intruded into our lives through taxation to an extent that society is less than what it could and should be. As Americans, we need to debate the role of government in our society.

- Dwight Cobbs, PREF Resident

**Next week's topic:** Moto GP motorcycle racing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in the place of Formula 1 racing.

## **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**



Mr. Bob Raikes is the new Director of Food Service for Aramark Correctional Services. Mr. Raikes oversees food service here at the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF), as well as the Plainfield Correctional Facility (PCF), and the Reception Diagnostic Center (RDC).

Mr. Raikes has over 20 years of client relations experience, none of which have been in corrections.

Mr. Raikes has also worked in the field of communications as General Manager of Operations for a nationwide company.

Having had the experience that he has had in such a field, Mr. Raikes strongly believes that, and I quote, "management is only as good as its people."

Mr. Raikes is one who pays close attention to detail. He believes in strong and positive client relations, as well as employee morale. Mr. Raikes believes in Aramark's mission and can be, and should be considered as a team player with the company.

Mr. Raikes would like to recognize his boss, Mr. Vince Phipps, who had the vision of him being a part of the Aramark team, and would also like to thank Mr. Phipps for allowing him the opportunity to be a representative of Aramark.

Mr. Raikes is a musician, singer, and songwriter. He is a member of Bobby Raikes & The Apologetic Band, a Christian band. Bobby Raikes & The Apologetic Band will be performing at PCF in the near future. Maybe Bobby Raikes & The Apologetic Band can stop by PREF along their tour.

## **PREF CONCERT**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

If you missed it, then you missed it. As had been posted around the facility, the local band, Aces Wild came back to PREF for an encore performance. As they did when they came before, they played really well. I would like to offer many thanks to them for coming back. The opening acts were The Mix and Too Loud, both bands consisting of PREF residents. They also played exceptionally well. There was even a staff performance at intermission by Mr. Haney, PIO. Unlike the last concert, which was held in the chapel, this one was held outside in the grassy area behind the activities building.

The turnout was pretty good. I don't doubt that those that did attend enjoyed themselves. To all that did come out for the

concert, your attendance was appreciated. Thanks too to all the PREF staff that came out for the concert. The more the merrier. Also, the more people that come out to these events the better the chances that there will be more of them more often with other performers of various talents.

## **JOB OPENINGS**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

Below is a listing of PREF's current job openings:

- Kitchen – all shifts
- Laundry
- Central Store
- Grounds Crew
- Lt. Maxey's work crew

Anyone interested in applying for one of the jobs listed, please contact your Specialist and/or Mr. Smith, Classification Specialist III.

## **FIT SMART**

**By: Jorge Cruise**

Now that summer is in full swing and temperatures across the country are soaring, it's time to make sure you take precautions when you work out or play in the heat. Exercising outdoors is great, but it also can be dangerous to your health and safety if you don't pay attention to your body.

"When exercising in the heat, it's important to be smart and sensitive to how you are feeling," says Douglas Casa, director of athletic training education at the University of Connecticut. "If you're experiencing nausea or getting a headache, you need to take a break to stop."

Casa recommends drinking some type of sports drink to stay hydrated. "The sodium in sports drinks will help you retain water," he says. "It's important to find something with a flavor you like because this will ensure you consume more of it."

To determine if you're sufficiently hydrated, monitor your urine color. "If it's the color of apple juice, you are not hydrated enough; if it's closer to lemonade, then you are getting enough fluids," Casa says. "This is a good gauge because it's easy to explain to kids."

There are two main factors that you can control when exercising in the heat: intensity of exercise and your environment. If you start not to feel well, back off on the level of intensity, take your workout to the shade or get it in earlier in the day," Casa Says. "Also, remember to wear light colors, a wide-brimmed hat and sunblock."

## **PLAINFIELD SIDEWALK PROJECT**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

For the few that might not know, PREF made the front page of the Hendricks County Flyer (Thursday, July 12, 2007, Vol. 42 – Issue 72). If you have yet to see and read the article, pick up a copy of the paper in the resource library located in the school building, room #102. It is a massive article which is well written and includes pictures of PREF residents working with the overseer of the sidewalk project at the actual worksite in the town of Plainfield. Also, there is a picture of the tool barn that the residents of the Building Trades program of PREF built and painted; with logos for both PREF as well as the Town of Plainfield painted on it.

I believe that many congratulations should be given to the residents that were a part of this project for doing such good work that they would make the front page story of a newspaper. Thanks should also be given to the on site overseers of the project, and to Superintendent Michael Lloyd and all others involved with making all of this possible.

## **JUST A THOUGHT**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

As human beings we chase after fleeting pleasures like a child licking honey off a sharp knife or a person carrying a torch against the wind.

## **HAVE A LAUGH**

**By: Dwight Cobbs, PIO Clerk**

If at first you don't succeed, shred all the documents.

Suggestions for The PREF Propeller should be e-mailed to Mr. Dalton Haney, PREF PIO, with a subject line of "PREF Propeller" or given to Mr. Dwight Cobbs, PREF PIO Clerk, Young-dorm.